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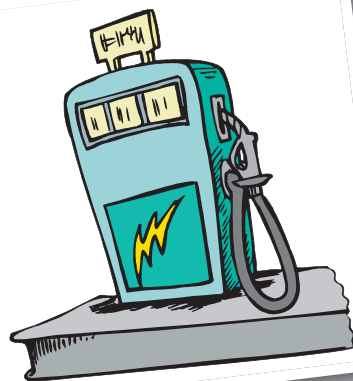


INFO & NEWS

from the

Indiana Senate

Money-Saving Tips: Conserve Gasoline



Over the past several months, Hoosiers have

seen gas prices rise substantially, putting a real strain on budgets.

I have compiled a list of gas saving tips that

will help reduce the amount of gas you use.

If you need more information on other gasoline resources, visit the attorney general's website at www.indianaconsumer.com

Drive Sensibly: Speeding, rapid acceleration and braking can lower your gasoline mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town.

Observe the Speed Limit: Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph is like paying an additional 10 cents per gallon for gasoline.

Avoid Excessive Idling: Idling gets zero miles per gallon, and cars with larger engines generally waste more gas at idle.

Use Cruise Control: Cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and will save you gasoline.

Use Overdrive Gears: Using overdrive gearing slows your car's engine speeds, which saves gasoline and reduces engine wear.

Check & Replace Air Filters: Replacing a clogged air filter can improve your car's gas mileage by as much as 10 percent.

Keep Tires Properly Inflated: Keeping your tires inflated to the proper pressures can improve your gas mileage by around 3 percent.

Use Recommended Grade of Motor Oil: Using the manufacturer's recommended grade of motor oil can improve your gas mileage by 1 to 2 percent.



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Serving District 9 in Elkhart, Kosciusko,
Marshall and St. Joseph Counties



Sen. Mishler visits with residents of Miller's Merry Manor Nursing Home in July to discuss issues facing senior citizens. Photo courtesy of The Pilot-News.

Did You Know...?

- ... that the average property tax bill went down this year?
- ... that on June 30, 2006, the state officially overcame a \$600 million deficit and closed its books for the fiscal year with a balanced budget for the first time in a decade?

*How to contact
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Job Creation Legislation
Proves Successful

— More jobs for Hoosiers are on the way —

Although the last two legislative sessions have been filled with substantial changes to the way Indiana does business, a priority in the Senate has been job creation. Although government actions cannot create jobs overnight, Indiana is beginning to see results just one year after the major economic development laws of 2005 were implemented.

In 2005, the General Assembly sped up and streamlined the creation of the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC), created tax breaks for research and development, passed a shovel-ready site development plan and expanded existing tax credits. The result: 85,000 more Hoosiers are working than in January 2005 and unemployment is at a low 4.9 percent.

More jobs are on the way. Recent job announcements include:

- **Honda announcing a \$550 million plant that will employ 2,000 people in Greensburg (the plant will have capacity for 4,000 employees)**

- **American Commercial Lines agreeing to create 1,100 jobs in Jeffersonville**
- **Federal Express announcing a \$200 million expansion creating 800 new jobs in Indianapolis**
- **Rolls Royce committing to bring 600 aerospace jobs to Indianapolis**
- **Pfizer deciding to create 450 jobs in Terre Haute**
- **American General Financial Services expanding its corporate headquarters to create 150 new jobs in Evansville**
- **Arbonne International opening a 400-employee distribution center in Greenwood.**
- **Nestle selecting Anderson for a 300-job facility**
- **Sallie Mae announcing 700 new jobs in Muncie**

Many other announcements have occurred in the past 18 months, many more are expected in the future, and I am committed to continuing to create a job-friendly environment here in Indiana.

TELECOM BILL SPARKS INVESTMENT

Companies Have Already Announced Plans to Build Infrastructure

One of the most important laws passed in the 2006 legislative session was the telecommunications reform bill that experts called the most aggressive and forward-thinking telecom reform in the nation. I supported the bill because it promised to encourage competition while bringing the latest technologies to Indiana at a low cost.

Many of these benefits will create will come in time, but improvements in the way Hoosiers receive information are already in the works just a few months after the law went into effect.

In April, AT&T announced its “High-Speed to the Heartland initiative”, which will bring DSL internet to more than 30 rural communities in Indiana that previously had no high-speed options. Communities that will be touched include the rural areas of: Andrews, Bruceville, Bellmore, Boswell, Chrisney, Dana, Dugger, Eliza-

bethtown, Flat Rock, and many more.

Additionally, Embarq, Sprint’s local telecommunications company, announced it will invest \$18 million in Indiana in 2006. This investment will bring high-speed internet to 88 of the 93 Indiana communities the company serves.

In May, AT&T announced it will invest \$250 million in Indiana in the next three years to deliver enhanced video service and broadband to Hoosiers. The new technology, AT&T U-Verse, will provide Hoosiers with a new competitive alternative in TV programming.

Experts predict that this is just the beginning of technology investment in Indiana. **Independent think tank FreedomWorks has stated 20,000 jobs and up to \$7 billion in investment could result from HEA 1279.**

Indiana: A Biofuels Leader

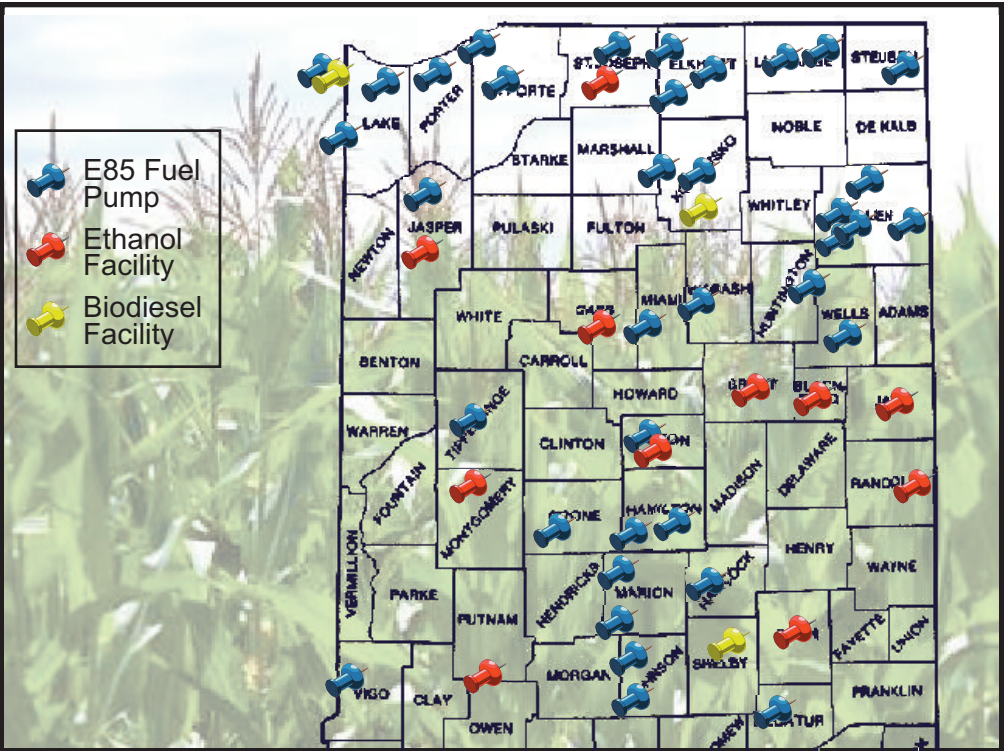
The General Assembly has passed several alternative fuel incentives in recent legislative sessions that have placed Indiana at the top of the biofuels industry. Ethanol and biodiesel burn cleaner, reduce the state’s dependence on foreign sources of energy and increase economic opportunities for our state.

Ethanol and biodiesel production have a very positive impact on Indiana farmers. Indiana is the fifth largest state for corn production and fourth largest in soybeans. These are the two key dynamics associated with ethanol/biodiesel production.

Currently, Indiana sends almost 50 percent of corn and soybean productions out of state with no values added, which is the least profitable form of sale for farmers. It is estimated that farmers contracting with ethanol or biodiesel plants will gain an incremental 15 cents to 20 cents per bushel.

Indiana has 15 ethanol plants announced or under construction that will produce a combined 840 million gallons of ethanol each year. The new ethanol and biodiesel plants will put an estimated \$17.5 million into Hoosier farmers’ pockets while investing more than \$1.27 billion in capital expenses.

Indiana also boasts dozens of new fueling



A look at the northern two-thirds of Indiana shows how prevalent biofuels have become in out state. The availability of biofuels at the pump should increase the practicality of buying flex-fuel vehicles.

stations. There are more than 50 biodiesel pumps and 40 E-85 pumps across the state. With this amazing progress in such a short time,

I am very encouraged that these proposals can take us even further. I am very proud that Indiana is a national leader in alternative fuels.

FOCUS SHIFTS TO EDUCATION

General Assembly Expects to Debate Funding, Kindergarten in 2007

In 2005, the General Assembly made an important change to the way our K-12 schools are funded. We instituted a new formula, which other states are now trying to emulate, that allows a school’s appropriations to rise and fall in proportion to enrollment.

In other words, dollars now follow the child rather than being arbitrarily given to corporations. This is a smart way to fund schools that served as a jumping-off point to improving Indiana’s school system.

This year, we passed legislation that makes it easier for schools to save money by allowing more flexibility in the way they make purchases. The money that is saved can be redirected into textbooks, technology, school buses, and other needs of the school or class-

rooms. Currently, only 61% of school operating budgets goes directly toward instruction and learning.

In 2007, I expect to see many more school issues brought forth. The most visible of those is full-day kindergarten. Most states now fully or partially fund all-day kindergarten (FDK). Experts agree that the additional hours of learning FDK offers puts children further ahead when they enter first grade. That allows elementary teachers to spend less time playing catch-up and more time introducing new subject matter.

FDK has been a long time coming in Indiana, but only because the funds have not been available. Funding FDK is estimated to cost around \$140 million. The budget deficit of

years past has prevented the legislature from offering funding, but thanks to smart spending in the 2005 budget, some believe there is enough cash available to fund FDK.

Other education issues that I expect to see include performance-based pay for teachers. Indiana is currently the only state in the nation forbidden from using student performance for teacher evaluations. Performance-based pay could serve as an incentive for teachers to better prepare their students.

Issues such as school choice, school board elections, accountability in higher education, and increased emphasis on Core 40 might also appear in 2007. I look forward to these debates and will continue to cast my votes with the best interest of students at heart.